ATHENA
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

Governance and IT Systems

for European University alliances

EUNIS

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Outline

ATHENA

- European Universities initiative
- Transforming Higher Education @ATHENA
- Governance
- Infrastructure

European Universities initiative

"…the ambitious vision of an **innovative, globally competitive** and **attractive** European Education Area and European Research Area, in full synergy with the European Higher Education Area, by helping to **boost the excellence dimension of higher education, research and innovation**, while promoting gender **equality, inclusiveness, and equity**, allowing for **seamless and ambitious transnational cooperation** between higher education institutions in Europe, and **inspiring the transformation of higher education**."

"*European Universities are **transnational alliances that will lead the way towards the universities of the future**, promoting **European values and identity**, and **revolutionising the quality and competitiveness of European higher education**.*"

1st phase 2019/2023 (3 years) → ATHENA 2020

2nd phase 2022/2029 (4 + 2 years)

44 European Universities involving around 340 higher education institutions in both capital cities and remote regions of 31 countries, including all EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, Serbia and Turkey

Aiming at **60 alliances** to be fully rolled out until 2027.

Main EU policy objectives of the EUi

ATHENA

- promote European values and strengthen European identity

- improve quality, performance, attractiveness and international competitiveness

- foster institutionalised cooperation with systemic, structural and sustainable impact

- encourage a whole-institution approach

- mobilise all missions of higher education institutions

- deliver on EEA, ERA and EHEA objectives

- act as role models.

https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/higher-education/european-universities-initiative

European Universities initiative

Probably the most **ambitious initiative in Europe for higher education** after the launch of the Erasmus programme 35 years ago.

ATHENA

2019-20, 2022-23: EU investment ~1.000 M€

Additional funding by Member States

Moving from project based funding to structural funding

Combined grants involving EU (Erasmus+, Horizon, …) and Member States

European University legal entity

Recognition   Common infrastructure

European Degree   Accreditation   Security   Equity

Mobility   Micro-credentials

National regulations   Tuition   Careers

ATHENA – Advanced Technology Higher Education Network Alliance

Supporting the green digitalization of inclusive societies

Partnership

Polytechnic University of Porto

Hellenic Mediterranean University

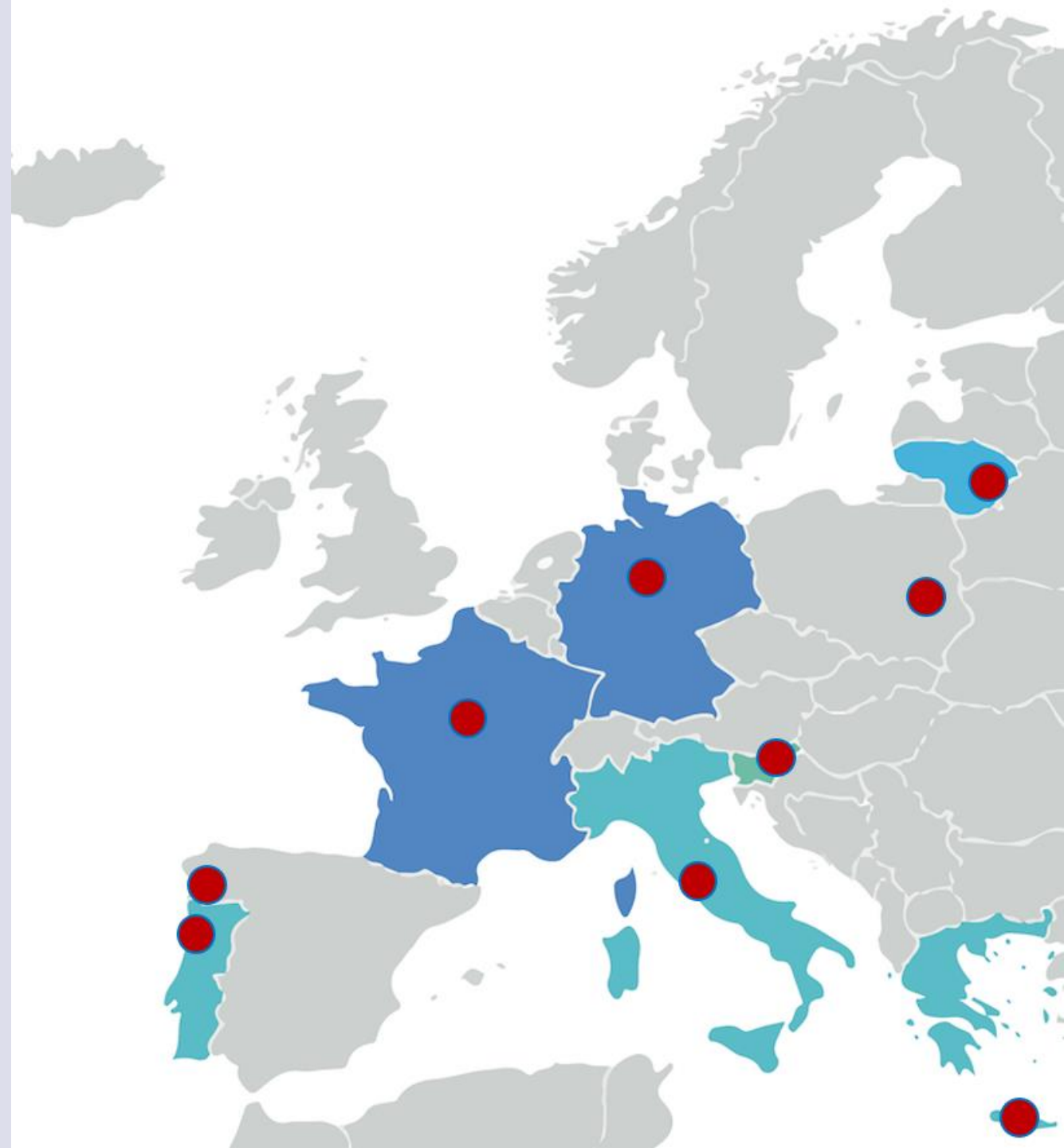University of Siegen

University of Maribor

University Niccolò Cusano

University of Orléans

Vilnius Gediminas Technical University

University of Vigo

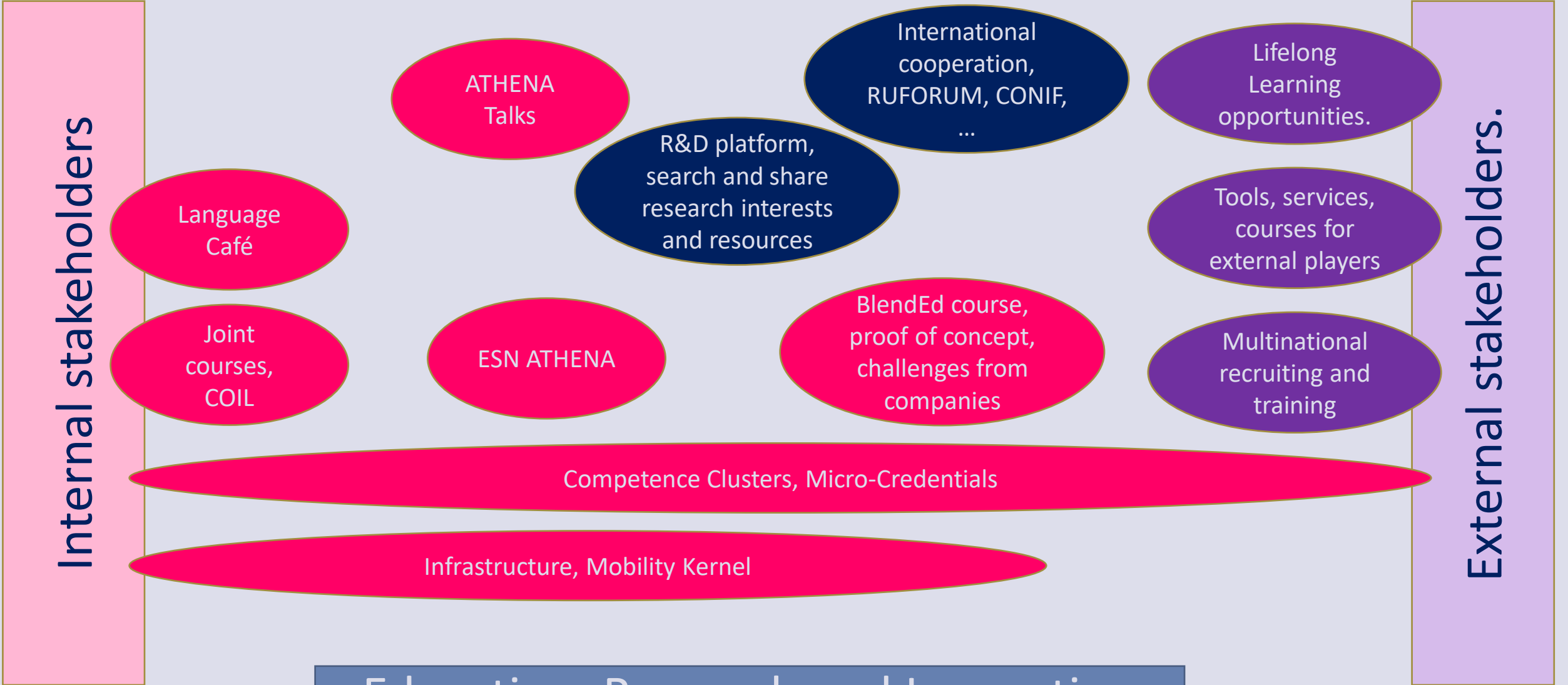Maria Curie-Skłodowska University.

ATHENA profile

- 9 medium-size institutions
- 166K students
- 15K staff

A few innovative features

ATHENA

Service to society

Internal stakeholders

External stakeholders.

- ATHENA Talks
- International cooperation, RUFORUM, CONIF, …
- Lifelong Learning opportunities.
- R&D platform, search and share research interests and resources
- Language Café
- Tools, services, courses for external players
- Joint courses, COIL
- ESN ATHENA
- BlendEd course, proof of concept, challenges from companies
- Multinational recruiting and training

Competence Clusters, Micro-Credentials

Infrastructure, Mobility Kernel

Education, Research and Innovation

Transforming Higher Education

ATHENA digest from the Education angle:

- **Competence Clusters**
- **Embedded Mobility**
- **In practice …**

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SCU

Skills and Competences Unit

A SCU is any structured academic activity (full courses, course modules, labs, …) offered in the ATHENA space that can be attended on its own to promotes learners' skills and competences.

SCU are assessed and certified in its own through micro-credentials.

CC

Competence Cluster

Competence Clusters are cohesive homogeneous groups of SC... same/equiva... learning out...

SCU in the same cluster are equivalent from the point of view of learning outcomes, skills and competences and workload

So they can be exchanged ...
... or attended autonomously.

Student-Centred learning

Student-Centred learning
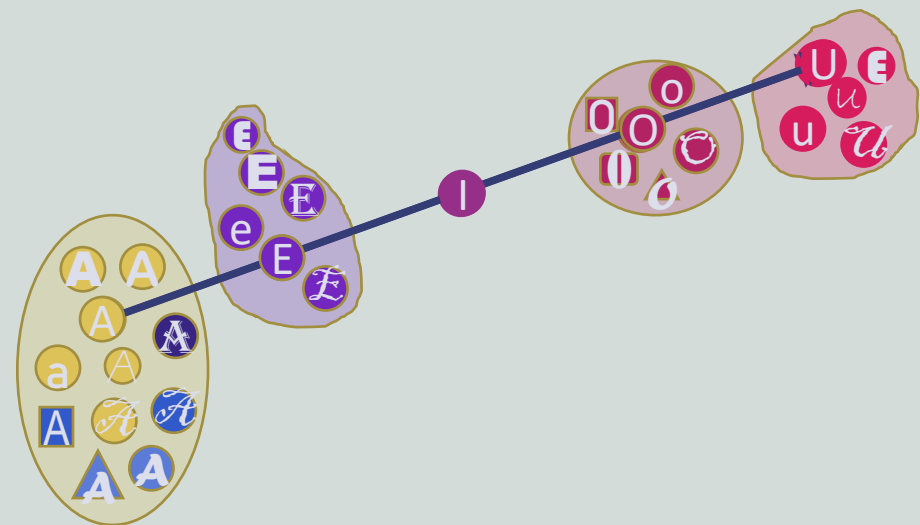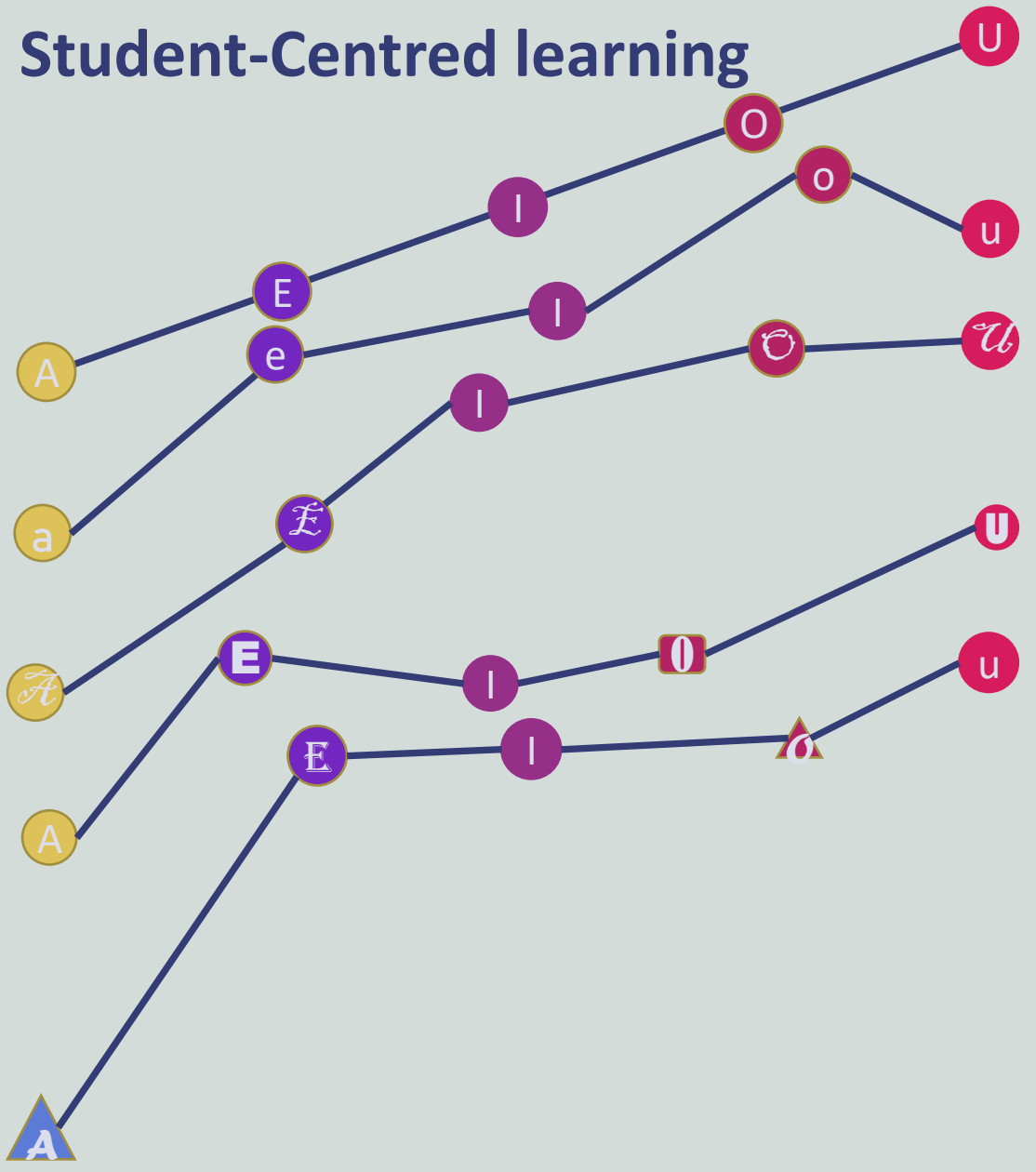
Student-Centred learning

- Design ones' own learning path
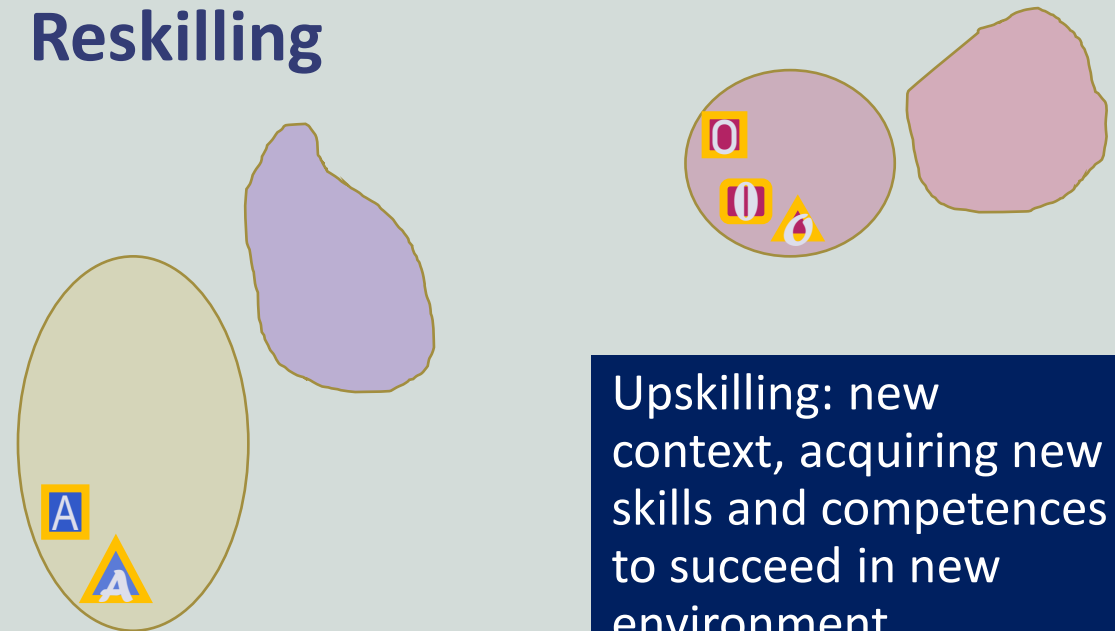
- Find more opportunities to succeed

- Reduce time to graduation

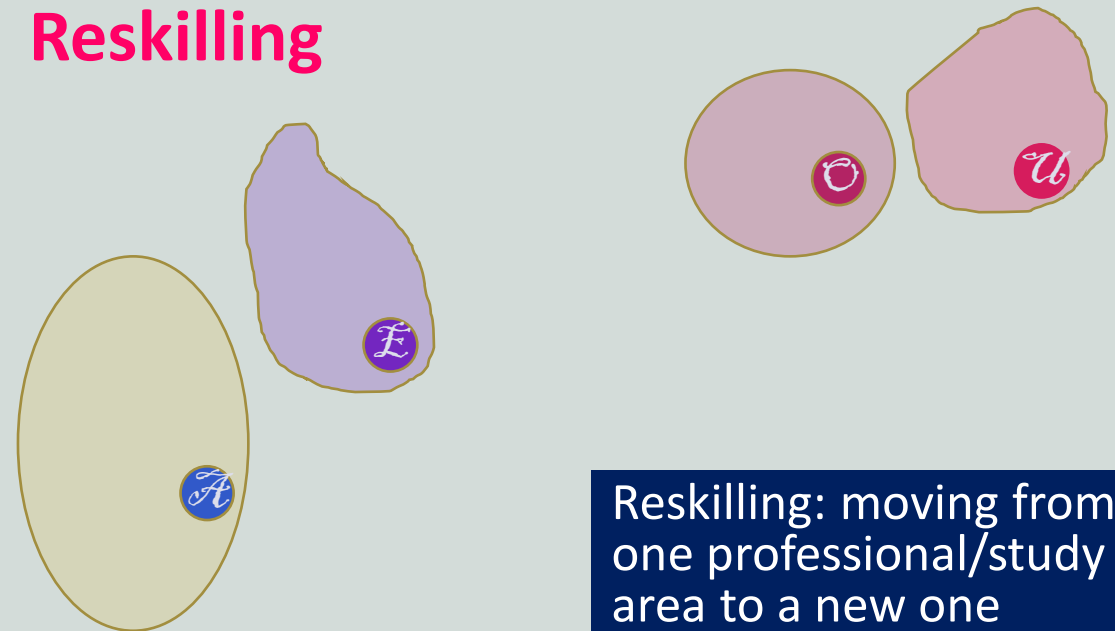# Lifelong Learning: Upskilling, Reskilling
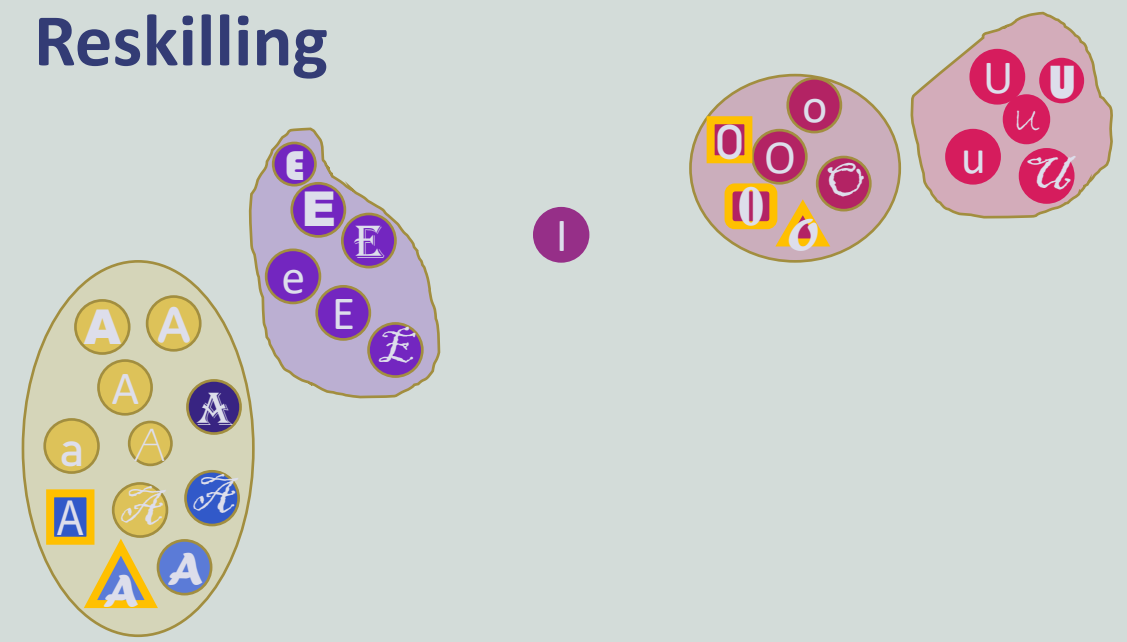
Lifelong Learning: Upskilling, Reskilling

Upskilling: new context, acquiring new skills and competences to succeed in new environment

Lifelong Learning: Upskilling, Reskilling

Reskilling: moving from one professional/study area to a new one

Comply with fast changing market needs

Reuse all available courses/modules to develop new training addressing specific needs on the fly

Competence Clusters aim to …

1. Pave the way for **student centred education**, curriculum *à la carte*

2. **Reduce time to graduation**

3. Foster simplified, objective, **effective access to lifelong learning**, reskilling, upskilling

4. Deploy training plans to **suit specific market needs on the fly**

5. **Open the doors of the university** to the local communities

6. Take the **best advantage of university educational assets**

7. **Create new markets** for higher education.

ATHENA digest from the Education angle:

- **Competence Clusters**
- **Embedded Mobility**
- **In practice …**

Education Board

Competence Clusters

- Student centred education, curriculum à la carte
- Lifelong learning
- Effective response to fast changing market needs
- Opening new markets for higher education

Embedded Mobility: a coherent, cohesive, holistic set of attitudes, skills and competences, underpinned by supporting procedures, tools and resources involving and empowering all the internal stakeholders of ATHENA (students, academics, researchers and administrative staff) in building an exciting and catchy international university campus that inspires local communities and delivers significant added value to the society.

Common Infrastructure

- Common LMS, Moodle Net, Blockchain Micro-credentials, EduCTX
- Virtual Classroom, Multimedia lab, Remote Labs Hub, internships virtual market, Praxis
- Joint Administrative procedures, staff training, marketing/promotion

- Governance, internal, national and European regulations for HE

Inclusion

All students, all staff find at the university the opportunities and the resources they need to succeed

Higher Education Observatory

ESN ATHENA

Education Board

Competence Clusters

- Student centred education, curriculum à la carte
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Embedded Mobility

- (...ls and competences) supported by the required ...ing, tools and resources
- ...portfolio of mobility options: physical, blended,
- ...ourse, COIL courses, joint courses, BlendSSchools ...fé
- Volunteering, interacting with local community

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- **In practice ...**

50% student mobility?

ATHENA

50% student mobility?
Currently we have 5%? 7%? 10%?

ATHENA

Blended mobility, virtual mobility opportunities

- huge potential for inclusive sustainable education
- unique mobility booster

Joint courses

- joint Database course 2021/22
- 400+ student
- theoretical c
- COIL – Collab

100% student mobility?

Número de estudantes OUT (do ISEP)	Ano letivo		
	2019/2020	2020/2021	
Mobilidade tradicional/física/Erasmus	71	32	
Mobilidade mista	0	2	
Mobilidade virtual, Internacionalização em casa	4	8	
Número total de estudantes do ISEP	75	42	

Transforming higher education:

1. **Student-centered learning**: design your own academic path; reduce time to graduation; gateway to research initiation

2. **Upskilling**: new context; acquiring new skills/competences to succeed in new environments on the same professional/academic/research area

3. **Reskilling**: new field; moving from one professional/study area to a new one

4. **Effective answer to fast changing needs**: new technologies, new labor market needs, develop new training addressing specific needs; reuse current assets; boost time to market

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- **New academic and lifelong learning opportunities**

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Transforming higher education:
- **New academic and lifelong learning opportunities**
- **New markets for higher education**

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Challenges

- Governance, internal regulations
- National and European regulations for HE
- Common infrastructure
- Virtual classroom, multimedia lab
- Mainstream virtual and blended mobility
- Certification
- Micro-credentials
- Blockchain certificates
- Security, safety
- Mindset switch
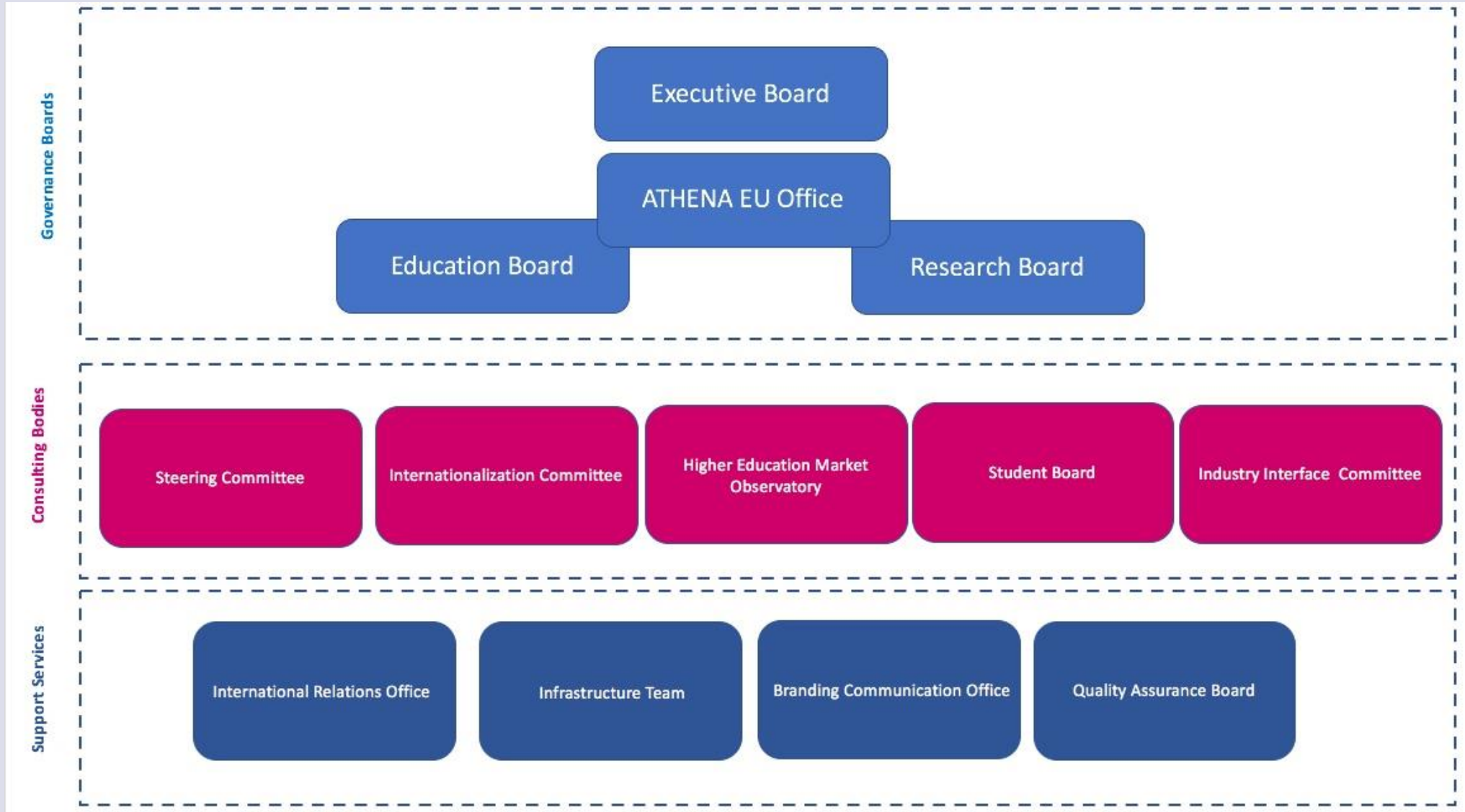- Staff training
- Marketing.

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Governance

Organigram

European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
European (Stock) Company/Societas Europaea (SA)
European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)
European Economic Interest Group (EEIG)
Non-profit Association (Verein, društvo, etc.)
Foundation
Company

Purpose/goal/target
Visibility: Joint identity & image
Long-term collaboration
Sustainability
Reduce barriers
Deliver European Joint Awards
Apply for joint European Projects
Share staff and also hire some
Share staff and also hire some
Share infrastructures
Buy goods and services
Keep the autonomy of the partner universities
Run all the necessary University functions in a unified way
Disrupt university landscape in Europe
Joint admission and registration of students
Joint access to international networks
Europass, automatic recognition
Joint data management and ethics

Infrastructure

- Interface to external hubs, such as the ATHENA hub
- Integrate external apps: editors, simulators, blockchain, remote labs, …
- LMS Factory.

[1] https://cip.ipp.pt

CENTRO DE INOVAÇÃO PEDAGÓGICA

¡Gracias!

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